

THE BEE

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NEGRO EXPOSITION

50th ANNIVERSARY OF FREEDOM

Editor, The Bee:

I have received so many letters recently regarding the proposed celebration in the year 1913 of the fiftieth anniversary of the freedom of the American Negro that I deem it wise to ask you to permit me to use your columns in making some reply to these letters rather than in trying to answer each one individually.

Attention has already been called to the importance of some kind of a celebration to take the form of an exposition or something else. Of course, in order to have such an exposition, it is of the first importance that it have the recognition and support of the United States Government as well as that of as many states as possible, for without the influence and help of the central government it would hardly be possible to have an exposition that would reflect credit upon our race.

Having all this in mind, the whole matter of such an exposition was carefully put before the President of the United States, and after considering the whole subject with great care, manifesting the deepest interest, it was thought best by President Taft and others who consulted with him that in order to secure the confidence and support of the American people that the whole matter ought to be taken up in a dignified, orderly way and that this could best be accomplished through the appointment of a preliminary and temporary commission by the President, authorized by Congress, such commission to be composed of men of such ripe and wide experience and reputation that their recommendations would carry weight. It would be the purpose of such a commission to study carefully the whole subject, and if deemed wise to recommend the holding of such an exposition, to map out in a general and comprehensive scheme for same. This would prove the basis for an appeal to Congress and to state legislatures and philanthropic individuals for such support as would create an exposition that would command the respect and confidence of the world.

Accordingly, a bill has been prepared and introduced into both the House of Representatives and the U. S. Senate carrying out the suggestion of providing for the appointment of a commission. President Taft, further manifested his interest in the proposed exposition by referring to it in the most complimentary way in his recent message. It is believed that the bill introduced into Congress will pass early in the present session.

In order to insure the success of the exposition, it is important that we proceed carefully and systematically. No hasty, ill-considered plan will command the respect and confidence of the American people.

I wish to say in this same connection that it is important that the race be patient while these plans are maturing. In the end it will be found that every element of the race will receive proper recognition and be given an opportunity to take part in the exposition. So far as the selection of individuals to take the leadership in the matter is concerned, nothing definite has been done; only preliminary committees have been selected with a view of getting matters in shape to present to the President. After the passage of the bill now before Congress and the appointment of the commission by the President, there will be plenty of time for all organizations, denominations and institutions to receive proper recognition, and I am sure that this will be done.

Nothing can be gained, but much lost, by any attempt to take short cuts and by doing those things that call attention to little side issues that have no possible chance to succeed. We need in this matter the united effort of all elements of the race, and the evidence so far points to the fact that the race is more united on this subject than it has ever been on any other of similar magnitude, and we hope that this union of the masses of

the people will continue.

I wish also to add that most careful consideration, before any decision is reached, will be given to the claims of every city or locality that is interested in having the proposed exposition located in its midst.

Other information as progress is made from time to time will be given.

Booker T. Washington.

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Dec. 21, 1909.

PROF. N. E. WEATHERLESS, DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, D. C., INSTALLED MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER F. A. M. FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

On December 9, 1909, Prof. N. E. Weatherless, Director of Science, D. C., was elected M. W. Grand Master F. A. M. for the District of Columbia by the largest vote ever given by the M. W. Grand Lodge for this ancient and honorable position. The installation occurred December 27, 1909, at Masonic Temple, corner Fifth street and Virginia avenue S. E., and the ceremony was performed by the retiring Grand Master, M. W. Brother William A. Warfield.

The newly installed Grand Master was entered, passed and raised in 1898 by Pythagoras Lodge, F. A. M. No. 9, of which he has been a consistent member ever since. His rise to the highest honor in the gift of the Order has been as rapid as his Masonic career had been unique and interesting. During his ten years in Masonry he has risen from Masonic obscurity to the highest pinnacle of Masonic fame, and that, too, by the sheer force of his own inherent meritorious Masonic worth. A decade ago he was totally unknown to Freemasonry. Today he is without a compeer in our Masonic realm.

Scientist, scholar, poet, jurist, linguist, ritualist, and orator, he is, without doubt, a Masonic star of the first magnitude, than which there is none brighter; none better.

Born since the war of '65, blessed with a father who believed in the best education for his only son, deeply imbued with the notion that equality of opportunity will surely come to him who proves his worth by his work, and especially to him whom no difficulty, however great, discourages— young Weatherless entered upon his career with a favorable disposition toward success. Indeed any young man who realizes, early in life, that whatever success he may achieve in any line of effort depends wholly upon himself, has his own individual problem more than half solved.

The brilliant Masonic career of the present Grand Master dates from his appointment to the position of senior deacon of his lodge in 1898.

Within two weeks after his appointment he was called upon to deliver the lecture work of the second degree in his lodge, and so transcendent were his powers of mind for the conception and interpretation of its symbolism, that it was clear to all that he was a man of unusual attainments, rare executive ability, and destined for a most brilliant Masonic career.

Coming events cast their shadows before them. Soon his services as a ritualist were in large demand in all the lodges, where he was well and most favorably received by all. His meritorious work soon attracted the attention of the older Masons, and he was soon made financial secretary, chairman, and general manager of all the big Masonic events given by the Grand Lodge. So gifted did he prove himself to be for this kind of work that he was in a short while made financial secretary of the M. U. R. A. and M. H. B. A., where his rare genius for Masonic achievement has been so pronounced and of inestimable value to the craft. As financial secretary of the M. H. B. A. he has overhauled, classified and rewritten all the minute details of its voluminous business since 1892, liquidated the remaining indebtedness on the Fifth street and Virginia avenue hall, purchased a hall on Thirteenth street at a cost of \$10,000, paid for the same in eight months' time, and for three years has been returning to the craft a liberal dividend on their investment.

In Freemasonry, as in his private life, everything he has undertaken has prospered. Things somehow seem to respond to his magic touch. Indeed he has the remarkable power of knowing how to take hold of things to get large returns. This faculty, coupled with his indomitable will, unflinching courage, rugged honesty, sterling integrity and devotion to duty, has deeply endeared him to the entire craft and reared for him a monument in their affections which neither time will destroy nor the corroding hand of years decay.

Indeed, in him the craft finds a man in whom there is no variability or shadow of turning from the path of duty and right; a citizen deeply interested in every civic virtue; and a Mason thoroughly devoted to social progress.

Few men have wrought so deeply and so well as he in so short a time; none better. This is true whether his career is viewed from the angle of his private life or studied from the viewpoint of his public achievements.

Coming to Washington in 1889, a young man in his teens, he entered Howard University, graduated from the preparatory Department in 1890, College in '94, and Law Department, regular course, in '97, and post course in '99, since which time he has taken regular courses in the Rochester Athenaeum and Mechanics Institute of Rochester, New York, and Columbia College of New York city.

Today he is the head of the Science Department of our public schools, a prominent leader in our business affairs, and the foremost Masonic citizen of Washington City. And how has he accomplished so much and so well? The answer is simple and soul-inspiring: namely, quiet, persistent effort in all things all the time, supported by dauntless courage, faith in God, himself and his country, and possessed by a determination that brooks no obstacle and fears no defeat.

Meteor-like has he shot across our Masonic sky, blazing a trail of achievements set in golden splendor. Today the



PROF. NELSON E. WEATHERLESS, DISTRICT GRAND MASTER

Masonic craft does well to richly enrobe him in royal purple and bow at his shrine as their emblem of power. In the language of the poet well might they exclaim:

There's no reward in Honor's case,
Too great for him to bear;
There's no sweet rose in any vase,
Too rich for him to wear.

PARAGRAPHIC NEWS

Miss Gonia B. Maxfield

We wish you a happy, prosperous and successful New Year.

Official announcement has been made that President Taft on his recent trip visited 33 States and made 265 speeches. He traveled nearly 1,000 miles in automobiles, more than 150 miles in carriages and walked at least 75 miles. It is said that Mr. Taft now holds the Presidential record for speech making on a single trip.

A new five cent piece bearing the head of George Washington has been proposed to take the place of the one now in circulation.

Mr. Frederic Remington, the noted "Cowboy Artist" died of heart failure, December 26. Mr. Remington was well known as the poet by nature, idealist by instinct, painter by profession and a strong exponent of the simple life.

Virginia celebrated her Christmas eve by a lynching in Hurley, a little town near Buchanan County, Va. Gov. Swanson expressed deep regret that the end of the year should bring the first blemish upon the State.

The total public benefactions in the United States during the past twelve months was \$141,250,000, an amount just \$40,000,000 greater than any previous year in the history of the country, according to statistics compiled by a New York newspaper.

New York is to have a Negro Deputy Assistant District Attorney Cornelius W. McDougald has been selected to serve. It is said Mr. McDougald had the endorsement of all the leading Negro organizations, business men of greater New York.

It is said the Negro race can now boast of having about fifty banks owned and controlled entirely by themselves.

Booker T. Washington and his great industrial school, Tuskegee Institute, also all the colored churches in Alabama together with Negro's industrial progress in the South, will be seen for the first time by moving pictures, in Boston, January 4, 1910. It is said this will be the greatest industrial exhibition of its kind ever given in the interest of the Negro race.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie slipped on an icy spot while walking in Central Park, and injured his knee. He was unable to attend the dinner given at his home for Governor Hughes and to which President Taft had been invited.

It is thought the statue of General Robert E. Lee, in Confederate

uniform, recently put in position at Statuary Hall, will remain there without formal exercises of acceptance by Congress, and if Gen Lee's statue had not been accepted, Virginia would also withdraw the companion piece, Gen. George Washington.

Every employee of the Capital Traction Company received on Christmas morning in addition to their regular salary a "good will" envelope containing two dollars. As there are about 900 employees of the Capital Traction Company quite a large sum was disbursed in this exhibition of generous remembrance.

Prof. W. S. Scarborough says, "The surest proof that the Negro is not indifferent to the things that make for his best welfare is clearly shown by the efforts he has put forth to improve his condition—moral, intellectual and financial."

It is said the colored people of Norfolk are complaining that they are being denied high school instruction, and steps are being taken to provide higher training for the Negro children.

The supplement to "The Freeman" is indeed interesting, nicely gotten up, and does credit to the management.

The Negroes of Muskogee, Okla., have organized a Building and Loan Association, with a capital of \$50,000, which is the strongest of its kind in the West. This will accommodate the demands from Negroes in the State for loans and etc. The Negroes are coming.

Rev. H. H. Scott, of Boston delivered a stirring address before the Boston Historical and Literary Association. Among other things he said: 500,000 American Negroes would go down before 1940, and not until then, will the race get liberty here. United States is the only nation in the world taking liberty from its people, and the United States Negroes are the only placid dark race without liberty. Rev. Scott is well known in this city as he was the first colored man to keep a book store here.

Resolution Adopted
The faculties of the several departments on the campus and the student body assembled yesterday in the Rankin Memorial Chapel at noon. In behalf of the deans of the several departments, Dean Miller offered a resolution which was seconded by members of the faculty and by a score of young men all over the chapel, as officers of the classes of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Teachers' College, the Commercial College, the Academy and the School of Theology.

The resolution was as follows:
In view of the misleading reports based upon the publication of an individual letter in a local paper, the faculty and student body assembled in the chapel on Thursday, December 23, at noon and adopted the following resolution:

"That in all the history of Howard University there has never been a stronger sentiment of loyalty for the aims and ideals of the university, nor greater harmony among the entire faculty and student body."

Through the press this has been given wide currency, and, in the judgment of the authorities, tends to

do the university positive harm. This has led to the issuing of an official statement of the facts in the case by the authorities of Howard University.

In recent weeks, the authorities state, the male glee club has rendered on several occasions several of the folk songs or plantation melodies. In the great university mass meeting under the auspices of the Bethel Literary and History Society at the Metropolitan Church, on M street, these melodies given by the glee club were encored, with much applause. At two or three recent chapel service, at the request of the president, and under the leadership of Prof. Brown, two of the choicest of these melodies have been sung, the great majority of the students joining in the singing voluntarily and heartily.

No Formal Protest
While a few students have expressed themselves as doubting the wisdom of the general use of these melodies in the public services, there has never been a protest against them nor even an organized request to either the president or to the dean of any department against their use. The attitude of the student body over the gross misrepresentation of them as being in a state of ferment or rebellion is voiced in the following action taken on their own motion and unanimously by the presidents and officers of the classes in the several departments on the campus last Sunday, immediately following the publication of the anonymous interview claiming to represent them. This action states the facts as to the spirit of loyalty:

"In the Sunday issue of a Washington morning paper there appeared an article, 'Balk at Folk Song,' which was written, it has been learned, by a student of one of the professional departments not in accord with the spirit of the student body on the campus. The reported interview is entirely out of harmony with both the spirit and content of several addresses of the president of the university on the subject of 'Negro folk song.'"

Plea for Perpetuation
"Friday he made a strong plea for the preservation of the noblest and most sacred of these melodies; that the best of them should be as dear to the race as were the psalms to the people of Israel, as they were the expression of the religious spirit and aspirations of a race wrung from suffering hearts during slavery." He quoted Dvorak, who said that in these melodies was found the only basis for an original school of music in America, and that he hoped that some day we might have here a conservatory where the choicest of these might be brought to their highest expression, and, under some leader, like Coleridge-Taylor, might be developed into oratorios and symphonies. So far from speaking of their use for the 'amusement' or 'entertainment' of the people, he has always dwelt on their sacred associations and their serious religious meaning.

"The address Friday was received with rounds of long and enthusiastic applause.

"Never before in Howard University has there existed a better and nobler spirit of harmony than now. There is a greater enthusiasm in the student body than ever before. Since President Thirkield has been here the university has taken on a new tone and reputation."

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Open Letter To President

Washington, D. C., Dec. 27, 1909.

Mr. President:

It has been announced that it is your intention to name Ex-Congressman Hemphill, of South Carolina as one of the District Commissioners. Why is it Mr. President that you take delight in appointing men to office who are inimical to the colored Americans? Out of the great number of Democrats in this city is it possible that you cannot select one less objectionable to the people than this South Carolina Democrat? Of course you are President and it is in your power to appoint whom you please, you have not considered the wishes of the people in these appointments. If it is true that you intend to appoint Mr. Rudolph, I am glad to know it, but by all means appoint a local Democrat equally acceptable. It is believed that you intend to make a few colored appointments. The applicants are waiting like hungry wolves, Mr. President. They expect lightning to strike them at any moment. If the flash should go in other directions, Mr. President, there will be lots of teeth clashing. There are only a few colored applicants in this city for high places Mr. President, and if you will carefully look into their political records you will be convinced that the clover fields of this city are not agreeable to official appetites. I said some time ago, Mr. President, that the removal of one colored man and the appointment of another will not satisfy your faithful allies. You have some capable and influential colored men in office, Mr. President, and if you want to do the race a service retain these men and appoint others to other places.

The colored Americans are not being treated properly in some of the departments, Mr. President. Many of them are treated like slaves.

Relative to the fight that is being made upon the reappointment of United States Attorney D. W. Baker, you will find it to be inaugurated by small men. Mr. Baker is an honest and capable prosecutor. I also said some time ago that Judge Kimball is not too old. His brain is more fertile than any younger man that you could appoint.

There are men, Mr. President, who want his place look wise and learned in law but they are found wanting.

I want to thank you, Mr. President, for your recommendation to Congress for the appointment of a Commission for the Negro Exposition in 1915—with Dr. Booker T. Washington as director-general, Mr. President. I am of the opinion that the affair will be a success.

The depositors of the late Freedmen's Saving Bank are still hoping for favorable action on your recommendation to Congress.

Should you decide to make a change in the judgeship of the Police Court, I would suggest that you appoint a pure local Democrat. Many of the Republican applicants are inimical to the colored citizens. If a Democrat is to be appointed, Mr. James Pugh would fill the bill. He knows colored Americans having lived among them in the South for years. I am tired of these Northern Republican hypocrites.

Well, your appointments will be announced after the holidays, no doubt. Until then, believe me to be Yours,

The Editor.

SOME FOOLISH THINGS TO THINK

Wilder indorsed for the Commissionship.

An attempt to defeat Judge Terrell.

Dangerous to apply for an office for which you are not qualified.

That a fool will succeed Dancy.

That Vernon will be removed.

That Tyler will be succeeded before the expiration of two terms.

That bachelors will marry after the age of 35.

This was unanimously adopted with enthusiasm and hearty applause.